Committee for Reviewing Prasar Bharati

1159. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-member Committee headed by Shri N.R. Narayanamurthy has been appointed to carry out a comprehensive review of Prasar Bharati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Committee on 22.11.1999 comprising of three outside experts namely Shri N.R. Narayanamurthy, Chairman and CEO, Infosys, Shri Kiran Karnik, Head of Discovery Channel in India and Shri Shunu Sen, well-known marketing consultant. In addition, the officials associated with are CEO, Prasar Bharati and Joint Secretary (Broadcasting), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The Committee is to study the working of Prasar Bharati and make appropriate recommendations in regard to its organizational structure, legal framework, systems and other relevent areas to ensure quality, credibility and professionalism in Prasar Bharati. The Committee has been given a period of three months to submit its report.

Complaints Against Doordarshan and Akashwani

†1160. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints with regards to the programmes transmitted through Doordarshan and Akashwani;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the nature of the complaints;

(c) whether facts have been ascertained by conducting an enquiry into the complaints; and

(d) if so, the issues on which registered complaints have been found correct and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that complaints/ suggestions for the improvement of content and quality of programmes transmitted on All India Radio/Doordarshan are received, from time to time.

The complaints generally relate to quality of programmes, their presentation and adverse impact on viewers, faulty pronunciation, non coverage of local events etc.

The complaints/suggestions are examined and remedial action, wherever required, is taken.

Approval of Foreign Capital Investment in Print Media

†1161. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to grant approval to foreign capital investment in print media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no decision has been taken so far, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government continues to be guided in this regard by the Cabinet decision of 1995 which prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in the country as well as publication of Indian

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.